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Title: Regarding withdrawl of import duty on raw Cashew nuts.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, cashew industry in India is facing acute crisis due to non-availability of raw cashew nuts and abnormal price of raw cashew nuts. Indian industry needs about 17 to 18 lakh tonnes of raw cashew nuts as raw material. The domestic production of raw cashew nuts is about 8.5 lakh tonnes. The remaining quantity, that is, about ten lakh tonnes of raw cashew nuts is imported mainly from African countries and Indonesia. To aggravate the situation recently in the Budget, the Govenrment of India has imposed an import duty of five per cent on raw cashew nuts. It has aggravated the situation. So, the total rate of duty will come around 9.36 per cent.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to withdraw the import duty on raw cashew nuts and also to change the standard input-output norms (SION) on cashew.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri N.K. Premachandran.